

XXIV.—*Proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the  
British Ornithologists' Union, 1913.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union for 1913 was held (by permission) at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London on April 9th. The Chair, in the unavoidable absence of the President, was taken by Mr. Edward Bidwell, the senior member of the Committee.

Letters regretting their inability to be present at the meeting were read from Mr. F. D. Godman and Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Report of the Committee for the past year was read as follows :—

“The Committee have to report the continued prosperity of the Union during the past year, both as to Membership and as to Finances. The Annual Volume of ‘The Ibis’ for 1912, published in due course, is the fifty-fourth, and the sixth and last of the Ninth Series under the joint Editorship of Dr. P. L. Selater, F.R.S., and Mr. A. H. Evans, M.A. It contains 738 pages and is illustrated with ten coloured and two photographic plates, two maps, and fourteen text-figures.

“As regards the accounts, which have been audited in detail by Mr. D. Seth-Smith, the total receipts in 1912 were £663 19s. 10d., as compared with £642 14s. 7d. in the previous year; and the total payments amounted to £630 4s. 5d. as against £697 9s. 0d. in 1911. The balance carried forward to 1913 was £139 2s. 5d. The decrease in payments is mainly due to the diminished cost of the volume of ‘The Ibis’ for 1912.

“With regret the Committee report the deaths of the following Members since the last Annual General Meeting:—  
W. I. Beaumont, F. J. Cade, A. O. Hume, Lt.-Col. C. H.

Moore, H. J. Pearson, Dr. E. A. Wilson, W. B. Tegetmeier, Prof. R. Collett, and Dr. W. Blasius.

“The following gentlemen have resigned:—J. M. Boraston, C. W. Campbell, H. C. V. Hunter, Rev. E. P. Knubley, Sir H. E. Maxwell, S. S. Stanley, and W. P. C. Tenison.

“The names of Messrs. E. F. Crossman, C. H. Lyell, and Lord William Percy have been removed from the List of Members under Rule 6.

“The Union now consists of 425 Ordinary Members, 2 Extraordinary, 8 Honorary, 6 Honorary Lady Members, 9 Colonial, and 19 Foreign Members.

“There are 21 candidates for Ordinary Membership of the Union.

“The Committee appointed to revise the B. O. U. List of British Birds have held seven meetings since the last Annual General Meeting, and the revision of the List has now been almost completed. The Committee hope to be able to publish the revised list at the end of the present year or early in 1914.

“The Committee regret that Mr. Frederick DuCane Godman, who has held the office of President of the Union since 1897, does not feel able, owing to ill-health, to allow himself to be nominated for re-election for the coming year. On Mr. Godman's resolution becoming known to the Committee they decided to ask Dr. P. L. Selater, who, as all members are aware, is not only one of the original members and founders of the Union, but has also been Editor of ‘The Ibis’ during the greater part of its existence, to allow himself to be nominated for the post. To the Committee's great regret, which they feel assured will be shared by all the Members of the Union, Dr. Selater finds himself unable, owing to his advanced age, to undertake any fresh responsibilities.

“After careful consideration the Committee decided to ask Col. R. G. Wardlaw-Ramsay to allow himself to be

nominated for election, and they confidently recommend him to your consideration.

“Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote, who has been the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Union for six years, has also found it necessary to resign his office, as he is leaving England for a post abroad. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to Mr. Bonhote for his untiring exertions on behalf of the Union during his tenure of office.

“To replace Mr. Bonhote the Committee recommend for election Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker, who is known to most of the members, and who has consented, subject to election, to undertake the duties of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.”

The statement of accounts for the year 1912, previously circulated to the members, was submitted and approved, and a vote of thanks was accorded to the Auditor, Mr. D. Seth-Smith.

The Meeting then proceeded to elect the Officers for the ensuing year, and it was announced that Col. R. G. Wardlaw-Ramsay had been elected President and Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, also that Mr. Henry Munt had been elected a member of the Committee in the place of Mr. Edward Bidwell, who retired by rotation.

The following 21 candidates for Ordinary Membership of the Union were then balloted for and duly elected:—George K. Baynes; George G. Blackwood; Nugent Chaplin; James P. Cook; Francis Cowan; Capt. John A. Doig; James Drummond; Linnæus Greening, F.L.S., F.Z.S.; Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, F.Z.S.; Capt. Ernest C. Hardy, R.N.; John Hewitt, M.A.; Tom Iredale; Godfrey C. Lambert; Kenneth F. Meiklejohn; John H. Owen; Reginald N. Rogers; Henry M. Stanford; John K. Stanford; Edward H. Tuckwell, F.Z.S.; Capt. Francis E. W. Venning; Hugh Whistler.

The following alterations and additions to the Rules were passed :—

1. New rule to follow Rule 10 :

11. The President shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election.

2. Addition to Rule 11 (now 12). After the words " each year " add :

"and a fresh member nominated to fill his place. The names of the Officers and the new member of Committee so nominated for the ensuing year shall be circulated with the preliminary notice convening the Annual General Meeting at least six weeks before the Meeting. Should any member wish to substitute another candidate, such nomination, signed by at least two members, must reach the Secretary four clear weeks before the Annual General Meeting in order that both names may be circulated with those of the candidates for ordinary membership."

3. Alteration to Rule 12 (now 13) :

*For* "in the month of April or May,"

*Read* "in the month of March."

As the recipients of the New Guinea Expedition Medals were not able to be present to receive them, it was decided that the presentations should be made at some future meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club when they were able to be present.

A vote of thanks to the Zoological Society for the use of their Offices and Rooms during the past year was unanimously passed.

A vote of thanks was also passed to the retiring President and Hon. Secretary for the services they had rendered to the Union during their tenure of those offices.

The meeting then adjourned to attend the Annual Dinner, which was held in conjunction with the monthly Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Club, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street.